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DAVID FULTON, Editor.

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The Southern Baptist Convention.

To their Brethren in the United States; to the  
Congregations connected with the respective  
Churches; and to all candid Men.

A painful division has taken place in  
the Missionary operations of the American  
Baptists. We would explain the origin,  
the principles and the objects of that divi-  
sion: or the peculiar circumstances in  
which the organization of the Southern  
Baptist Convention became necessary.

Let not the extent of this disunion be  
exaggerated. At the present time it in-  
volves only the foreign and Domestic Mis-  
sions of the denomination. Northern and  
Southern Baptists are still brethren. They  
differ in no article of the Faith. They are  
guided by the same principles of gospel  
Order. Fanatical attempts have indeed  
been made, in some quarters, to exclude us  
of the South from Christian fellowship.—  
We do not retort these attempts; and be-  
lieve their extent to be comparatively lim-  
ited. Our Christian fellowship is not, as we  
feel, a matter to be obtruded on any one.  
We abide by that of our God, his  
dear Son, and all his baptised followers.  
The few ultra Northern brethren to whom  
we allude must take what course they  
please. Their conduct has not influenced  
us in this movement. We do not regard  
the rupture as extending to foundation prin-  
ciples, nor can we think the great body of  
our Northern brethren will so regard it.—  
Disunion has proceeded, however, deplo-  
rably far. The first part of our duty is to  
show that its entire origin is with others.  
This is its history.

I. The General Convention of the Baptist  
denomination of the United States was  
composed of brethren from every part of  
the American Republic. Its constitution  
knows no difference between slaveholders  
and non-slaveholders. Nor during the pe-  
riod of its existence for the last thirty years  
has it, in practice, known anything of this  
distinction. Both parties have contributed  
steadily and largely (if never adequately)  
to those funds which are the basis of its  
constituency; both have yielded its office-  
bearers of all grades; its missionaries and  
translators of God's word, its men of toils  
many, and of prayers not unavailing,  
abroad and at home. The honored dead  
of both these classes have walked in close-  
est sympathy with each other; anticipat-  
ing in the Board-room, and in the Month-  
ly Concert, that higher, but not holier

union now in their case consummated.—  
Throughout the entire management of its  
early affairs, the whole struggle with its  
early difficulties, there was no breath of  
discord between them. Its Richard Fur-  
man and Wm. Staughton, its Jesse Mer-  
cer and its Thomas Baldwin led on the  
sacramental host, shoulder to shoulder, and  
heart to heart. Their rivalry being only  
in earnest efforts for a common cause, their  
entire aversions and enmities were directed  
with all the strength of their souls, against  
the common foe. And to the last, did they  
not cherish the strong belief that they left  
no other enmities, or aversions; no other  
rivalry, to their successors?

In particular, a Special Rule of the con-  
stitution defines who may be missionaries,  
viz: "Such persons only as are in full  
communion with some church in our de-  
nomination; and who furnish satisfactory  
evidence of genuine piety, good talents,  
and fervent zeal for the Redeemer's cause."  
Now, while under this rule the slaveholder  
has been, in his turn, employed as a mis-  
sionary, it is not alleged that any other  
persons than those above described, have  
been appointed. Moreover the important  
post of superintendent of the education of  
native missionaries has been assigned, with  
universal appropriation, to the pastor of  
one of our largest slaveholding churches.

But an evil hour arrived. Even our  
humble efforts in the conquest of the world  
to God, excited the acerbity of our brethren  
to east discord among us; and in the last  
two Triennial Conventions, slavery and  
anti-slavery men began to draw off on dif-  
ferent sides. How did the nobler spirits  
on each side endeavor to meet this? They  
proposed and carried almost unanimously,  
the following explicit Resolution:

"Resolved, That in co-operating to-  
gether, as members of this Convention in the  
work of foreign missions, we disclaim all  
sanction, either expressed or implied, whether  
of slavery or anti-slavery; but as indi-  
viduals, we are free to express and to  
promote, elsewhere, our views on these  
subjects, in a Christian manner and spirit."

Our successors will find it difficult to  
believe that so important and plain a de-  
claration had become, before the close of  
the first year of the triennial period, a per-  
fect nullity. In December last the acting  
Board of the Convention, at Boston, adopted  
a new qualification for missionaries, a  
new special rule, viz: that "If any one  
who shall offer himself for a missionary,  
having slaves, should insist on retaining  
them as his property, they could not ap-  
point him." "One thing is certain," they  
continued, "We could never be a party to  
any arrangement which implies approba-  
tion of slavery."

We pray our brethren and all candi-  
date men to mark the date of this novel Rule—  
the close of the first six months of their  
three years' power, a date at which the  
Compromise-resolution could scarcely have  
reached our remote Mission stations. If  
usurpation had been intended could it have  
been more fully timed? An usurpation of  
ecclesiastical power quite foreign to our  
policy. Such power was assumed at a  
period when the ascribed 'thousands of  
Israel' had, as it now appears, no practical  
remedy. Its obvious tendency was, either  
our final subjugation to that power, or a  
serious interruption of the flow of Southern  
benevolence. The latter was the far more  
probable evil; and the Boston Board knew  
this well. They were from various quar-  
ters apprized of it. We, on the other  
hand, did not move in the matter of a new  
organization until three liberal States had  
refused to send Northward any more con-  
tributions. Our leaders had chosen new  
Rules. Thus came war within our  
gates: while the means of war on the com-  
mon enemy were daily diminishing.

By this decision the Board had placed  
itself in direct opposition to the constitu-  
tion of the Convention. The only reason  
given for this extraordinary and unconstitu-  
tional dictum being—that the appointing  
power for wise and good purposes, is con-  
fided to the acting Board. On such a  
slight show of authority, this Board un-  
dertook to declare that to be a disqualifi-  
cation in one who should offer himself for a  
Missionary, which the Convention had  
said shall not be a disqualification. It had  
also expressly given its sanction to Anti-  
slavery opinions, and impliedly fixed its  
condemnation on slavery, although the  
Convention had said that "neither" should  
be done. And further, it forbade those  
who should apply for a Missionary ap-  
pointment to "express and promote else-  
where" their views on the subject of slave-  
ry in a right "manner and spirit," when  
the constitution declared they "were free"  
to do so. These brethren thus acted up-  
on a sentiment they have failed to prove—  
That slavery is in all circumstances sinful.  
Whereas their own solemn resolution in  
the last Convention (their's as much as  
ours) left us free to promote slavery. Was  
not this leaving us free, and "in a Chris-  
tian spirit and manner" to promote that  
which in their hearts, and according to the  
present showing of their conduct, they re-  
gard as a sin?

Enough, perhaps, has been said of the  
origin of this movement. Were we asked  
to characterize the conduct of our North-  
ern brethren in one short phrase, we should  
adopt that of the Apostle. It was "for-  
bidding us to speak unto the Gentiles."—  
Did this deny us no privilege? Did it  
not obstruct us, lay a kind of Romish in-  
terdict upon us in the discharge of an im-  
perative duty; a duty to which the church  
has been, after a lapse of ages, awakened  
universally and successfully; a duty the  
very object, and only object, of our long  
cherished connection and confederation?

And this would seem the place to state,  
that our Northern brethren were dealt with  
as brethren to the last moment. Several  
of our Churches cherished the hope that  
by means of remonstrance and expostula-  
tion, through the last annual meeting of  
the Board of Managers at Providence, the  
acting Board might be brought to feel the  
grievous wrong they had inflicted. The  
Managing Board was therefore affection-  
ately and respectfully addressed on the  
subject; and was entreated to revise and  
reverse the obnoxious interdict. Alas! the  
results were—contemptuous silence as to  
the application made; and a deliberate re-  
solve, expressing sympathy with the Act-  
ing Board, and a determination to sustain  
them.

II. The principles of the Southern Baptist  
Convention it remains then to be stat-  
ed, are conservative, while they are also,  
as we trust, equitable and liberal. They  
propose to do the Lords' work in the way  
our fathers did it. Its title designates at  
once its origin and the simple, firm abiding  
of the South on the ground from which it  
has been so unconstitutionally and unjustly  
attempted to eject us. We have but en-  
quired for 'the old paths' of Missionary  
operations; 'asked' for, and attempted to  
restore the practically 'good way.' The  
Constitution we adopt is precisely that of  
the original union; that in connection with  
which, throughout his Missionary life,  
Adoniram Judson has lived, and under  
which Ann Judson and Boardman have  
died. We recede from it no single step.  
We have constructed for our basis no new  
creed; acting in this matter upon a Baptist  
aversion from all creeds but the Bible.—  
We use the very terms as we uphold the  
true spirit and great object of the late  
'General Convention of the Baptist denom-  
ination of the United States.' It is they  
who wrong us that have receded. We have  
receded neither from the Constitution nor  
from any part of the original ground on  
which we met them in this work. And if,  
we ask in parting, the original and broad  
Bible ground of Confederation were not  
equitable, how came it so nobly and so  
long to be acted upon? If equitable, why  
depart from it?

We claim to have acted in the premises,  
with liberality towards our Northern breth-  
ren. 'Thrust from the common platform of  
equal rights, between the Northern and  
Southern Churches, we have but recon-  
structed that platform. Content with it,  
we adhere to it, and reproduce it, as broad  
enough for us and for them. Have they  
thrust us off? We retain but one feeling  
in the case. That we will not practically  
leave it on any account: much less in obedi-  
ence to such usurped authority, or in de-  
ference to such a manifest breach of Trust  
as is here involved. A breach of covenant  
that looks various ways—heavenward and  
earthward. For, we repeat, they would  
forbid us to speak unto the Gentiles.—  
The Jerusalem church, then, must be re-  
gathered at the suspected Samaria, or at  
some new centre of operations like An-  
tioch. "One thing is certain"—We must  
go every where preaching the word. "We  
can never be a party of any arrangement"  
for monopolizing the Gospel: any arrange-  
ment which like that of the Autocratical  
Interdict of the North, would first drive us  
from our beloved coloured people, of whom  
they prove that they know nothing com-  
paratively, and from the much-wronged  
Aborigines of the country; and then cut us  
off from the whitening fields of the Heath-  
en harvest-labor; to which by cogent ap-  
peals and solemn prayers, they have so of-  
ten protested that, without us, they were  
inadequate.

III. Our objects then, are, the extension  
of the Messiah's kingdom, and the glory  
of our God. Not disunion with any of  
his people; not the upholding of any form  
of human policy, or civil rights; but God's  
glory, and Messiah's increasing reign: in  
the promotion of which, we find no ne-  
cessity for relinquishing any of our civil  
rights. We will never interfere with what  
is Caesar's.\* We will not compromise  
what is God's.

\*It was not dwelt upon in the Augusta con-  
vention we do not recollect its being named, but it  
is too stringent a fact in the case to be here om-  
itted—that one of the Missionaries, with whom  
the acting Board, and Board of Managers can sym-  
pathize, we presume, and whom they sustain (we  
hope, however, not in this particular act, but they  
have in no way openly protested against it)—broth-  
er Mason has actually remitted money to the United  
States, to aid in assisting slaves to run away  
from their masters, a felony by the Statute Law  
of several States.

These objects will appear in detail on  
the face of our Constitution, and in the  
Proceedings, which accompany this ad-  
dress. They are distributed at present,  
between two acting Boards for Foreign  
and Domestic Missions, having their re-  
spective seats at Richmond, Va., and Ma-  
rietta, Ala. We sympathize with the Mac-  
donia cry from every part of the Heathen  
world—with the low moan, for spiritual  
aid, of the four millions of half stifled Red  
men, our neighbors; with the sons of Ethio-  
pia among us, stretching forth their hands  
of supplication for the gospel, to God and  
all his people—and we have shaken our-  
selves from the night-mare of a six years'  
"strife about words to no profit," for the  
profit of these poor, perishing and precious  
souls. Our language to all America, and to  
all Christendom, if they will hear us, is  
"Come over," and for these objects, as ye  
love souls and the divine Saviour of souls,  
"Help us." We ask help at this juncture  
for nothing else. We have had more talk  
than work about these objects too long.—  
We have waited quite too long for the more  
learned and gifted, and opulent and worthy  
to lead our way toward these objects; and  
we have shortened debate upon them to  
get to business. Our eyes and hearts are  
turned with feelings of parental fondness  
to Burmah and the Karens; with a zeal in  
which we are willing to be counselled by  
God and all considerate men (but by none  
else)—to the continent of Africa, and her  
pernicious fountains of idolatry, oppression  
and blood, but yet more, with unutterable  
hope and thankfulness, to China and her  
providentially opened ports, and teeming,  
thirsty millions. Among us, in the South,  
we have property, which we will offer to  
the Lord and his cause, in these channels  
—some prudence with which we would  
have our best wisdom to dwell; and pro-  
fessions of a piety which we seek to have  
increased and purified, like that of the first  
Baptist Churches, when they had "rest;  
and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in  
the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multi-  
plied."

In parting with beloved brethren and old  
co-adjutors in this cause, we could weep,  
and have wept, for ourselves and for them;  
but the season, as well of weeping as of  
vain wrangling, is, we are constrained to be-  
lieve, just now past. For years the pres-  
sure of men's hands has been upon us far  
too heavily. Our brethren have pressed  
upon every inch of our privileges and our  
sacred Rights—but this shall only urge our  
gushing souls to yield proportionately of  
their renewed efforts to the Lord, to the  
Church universal, and to a dying world;  
even as water pressed from without rises  
but the more within. Above all the moun-  
tain pressure, of our obligations to God  
even our own God; to Christ and Him  
crucified; and to the personal and social bless-  
ings of the Holy Spirit and his influences,  
shall urge our little streams of the water of  
life to flow forth; until every wilderness  
and desolate place within our reach (and  
what extent of the world's wilderness wis-  
ely considered is not within our reach?)  
'shall be glad'—even at this passing cala-  
mity of division; and the deserts of uncon-  
verted human nature, rejoice and blossom  
as the rose.

By order of the Convention.  
WM. B. JOHNSON, D. D.  
Augusta, Ga., 12th May, 1845.

†Prov. vii. 12.

Pointed Conversation.—How do you do, Mr.

Smith?

"Do what?"

"Why, how do you find yourself?"

"I never lose myself."

"Well, how have you been?"

"Been—been where?"

"Pshaw! how do you feel?"

"Feel of me and see."

"Good morning Mr. Smith."

"It's not a good morning—its infernally wet and  
nasty."

And the parties separated.

Important to Navigation.—A writer in the Bos-  
ton Courier points out a very material, which may  
be, in its consequences, a very fatal error in a cheap  
reprint published in New York by Faye & Shaw of  
the English nautical almanac for the year 1845.  
This error, extending from the middle of April to the  
middle of June, consists in directing for that period  
equation of time to be added instead of being sub-  
tracted, as it should be. Some vessels have already  
been nearly lost in consequence of this unpar-  
donable negligence—and have lost their reckon-  
ing.—*Balt. Sun.*

Method in Madness.—In George the Third's  
first illness, when Willis, who was a clergyman,  
entered the room, the King asked him, if he, who  
was a clergyman, was not ashamed of himself  
exercising such a profession. "Sir," said Willis,  
"our Saviour himself went about healing the sick."  
"Yes," answered the King, "but he had not £700  
a year for it."

The Fragrance of Onions.—Onions do not,  
certainly, add to the sweetness of a lady's  
breath, though in fact they really do add to  
the fragrance of flowers. Let our lady readers  
plant a large onion near a rose bush, so as to  
touch its roots, and our word for it, it will  
wonderfully increase the odor of the flowers.  
The water distilled from those roses would be  
far superior to any other. This is strange  
but true.

Forensic.—"Take off your hat man," said Mr.  
Justice Platt, when at Worcester, one day last  
week, presiding at Nisi Prius, to a lady habited  
in a riding dress. "I am not a man, my lord, I am  
a lady." "Then," rejoined his lordship, "I am  
not a judge."

From the Washington Union.  
Navy of the United States.

Seeing within the last few days a general  
statement of some of the newspapers, of  
the number and size of our vessels of war, dis-  
tinguished, too, as their being in commission  
or in ordinary, &c., we have applied to the  
Navy Board for a complete and accurate list  
of our Navy, embracing also their destination.  
They have been so obliging as to furnish the  
following specifications, which we hasten to  
lay before the readers of the "The Union."

Ships of the Line—10.

Pennsylvania, three decks, in commission  
as a receiving ship at Norfolk.

Franklin, two decks, in ordinary at the Na-  
vy Yard, Boston.

Columbus, two decks, in commission at N.  
York, destined for the East Indies.

Ohio, two decks, in commission as a re-  
ceiving ship at Boston.

North Carolina, two decks, in commission  
as a receiving ship at New York.

Delaware, two decks, in ordinary at the Na-  
vy Yard, Norfolk.

Alabama, two decks, on the stocks at Ports-  
mouth, New Hampshire.

Vermont, two decks, on the stocks at Boston.

Virginia, do do do Norfolk.

New York, do do do Norfolk.

Razee—1.

Independence, in ordinary at the Navy Yard,  
Boston.

Frigates, first class—13.

United States, in ordinary at the Navy  
Yard, Boston.

Constitution, in commission, in the East  
Indies.

Potomac, in commission—home squadron.

Brandywine, in commission, on her return  
from East Indies.

Columbia, in ordinary at the N. Y. Norfolk.

Congress, do do do do.

Cumberland, in commission, in the Medi-  
terranean.

Savannah, in commission, in the Pacific.

Karitan, in commission, on the coast of Bra-  
zil.

Santee, on the stocks at Portsmouth, New  
Hampshire.

Sabine, on the stocks at New York.

St. Lawrence, on the stocks at Norfolk.

Frigates, second class—2.

Constellation, in ordinary at the Navy Yard,  
Norfolk.

Macedonian, just returned from coast of  
Africa, and placed in ordinary at New York  
Yard.

Sloops of War, first class—17.

Saratoga, in commission.

John Adams, preparing for sea at the Navy  
Yard, New York.

Boston, in commission, coast of Brazil.

Vincennes, in commission, destined for the  
East Indies.

Warren, in commission, in the Pacific.

Falmouth, in commission—home squadron.

Fairfield, in ordinary, at the Navy Yard,  
Norfolk.

Vandalia, in ordinary, at Norfolk.

St. Louis, in commission, on her return  
from East Indies.

Cyane, preparing for sea at the Navy Yard,  
Norfolk.

Levant, in commission, in the Pacific.

Portsmouth, in commission, in the Pacific.

Plymouth, in commission, in the Mediter-  
ranean.

Albany, on the stocks at New York.

Germantown, on the stocks, at Philadel-  
phia.

St. Mary's, in commission.

Jamesstown, in commission, coast of Africa.

Sloops of War, second class—6.

Ontario, in commission, as a receiving ship,  
Baltimore.

Decatur, in ordinary, at the Navy Yard,  
Norfolk.

Pebble, in commission, coast of Africa.

Yorktown, do do do do.

Marion, in ordinary, at the Navy Yard,  
Boston.

Dale, in ordinary, at the Navy Yard, N. Y.

Brigs—8.

Dolphin, preparing for sea at the N. Yard,  
Norfolk.

Porpoise, in commission.

Somers, in commission—home squadron.

Truxton, in commission, coast of Africa.

Bainbridge, in commission, coast of Brazil.

Perry, in commission, on her return from  
East Indies.

Lawrence, in commission—home squadron.

Schooners—8.

Shark, in commission, in the Pacific ocean.

Boxer, in ordinary, at Boston.

Experiment, in commission as a receiving  
ship, Philadelphia.

Flirt, in commission as a packet, running  
between Norfolk and Chagres.

Wave, in commission, on coast survey.

Phenix, in ordinary, at Norfolk.

On-ka hy-e, in commission as a packet,  
running between Norfolk and Chagres.

Steamers—8.

Mississippi, in ordinary, at Boston.

Fulton, in ordinary, at New York.

Union, in ordinary, at Washington.

Princeton, in commission.

Michigan, in commission, on Lake Erie.

Poinsett, in ordinary at New York.

Iron Steamer, on the stocks at Pittsburg,  
Pennsylvania.

Water Witch, water tank, at Norfolk.

Engineer, tugboat at Norfolk.

Store Ships.

Relief, in commission, Pacific.

Erie, in commission at New York, destined  
for the Pacific.

Lexington, in commission, Mediterranean.

Southampton, repairing for sea, at Norfolk,  
destined for the coast of Africa.

British Fleet for the Gulf.—The New  
Orleans Bulletin of the 12th inst. says:—  
The ship Wabash which arrived yester-  
day from New York, reports having passed  
the Hole in the Wall, in company  
with four vessels of H. B. M. navy, viz: a  
ship of the line; a frigate; a sloop and a  
ten-gun brig. The Wabash fell in with  
the squadron on the 4th inst., and parted  
company on the 5th.

A seizure of upwards of 50,000 smuggled Span-  
ish cigars was made in Boston a week or two ago.

The United States.  
(BY JOHN KEBLE, \*)

Tyre of the father West! be thou too warned,  
Whose eagle wings thine own green world o'er-  
spread,

Touching two oceans; wherefore hast thou  
scoorned

Thy father's God, O proud and full of bread?  
Why flies the cross unhonored on thy ground,  
While in mild-air thy stars and arrows flaunt?

That sheaf of darts, will it not fall unbound,  
Except, disrobed in thy vain earthly vaunt,  
Thou bring it to be blessed where saints and  
angels haunt?

The holy seed, by Heaven's peculiar grace,  
Is rooted here and there in thy dark woods;  
But many a rank weed round it grows apace,  
And Mammon builds beside thy mighty floods,  
O'ertrapping Nature, braving Nature's God;